GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3708
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
SUBMARINE IMBALANCE
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Navy Chief has expressed concern over submarine imbalance as a result of acquisition of capabilities to manufacture the most modern French Agosta-90B submarines by Pakistan;

(b) whether recent American billion-doller arms bonanza for Pakistan including 8 more P-3C Orion Aircraft and over 2000 TOW-2A missiles has further created imbalance in the area;

(c) whether the Navy Chief has also briefed the Defence Minister of his fears; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to meet the challenges in case of escalation of hostilities and upgrade and manufacture submarines/under water fleet?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d): Chief of Naval Staff in his press conference on 1st December, 2004 stated that restoration of our submarine building capability is a top priority. The reported sale of P-3C Orion aircraft to Pakistan is expected to increase the strength of their Navy substantially.

Adequate steps are being taken by the Government for enhancing the capabilities of Indian Navy keeping in view the threat perception and the external strategic environment by upgrading our capabilities through planned induction of ships, aircraft and equipment.